



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2005

LCO No. **6861**

SB0125806861SD0

Offered by:

SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.

SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.

REP. BERGER, 73rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **1258**

File No. 666

Cal. No. 476

***"AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF COLLABORATIVE
RESEARCH APPLICATIONS WITH INDUSTRY."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 4-124ff of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
5 *1, 2005*):

6 (b) There is established a Council of Advisors on Strategies for the
7 Knowledge Economy to promote the formation of university-industry
8 partnerships, identify benchmarks for technology-based workforce
9 innovation and competitiveness and advise the award process (1) for
10 innovation challenge grants to public postsecondary schools and their
11 business partners, and (2) grants under section 2 of this act. The
12 council shall be chaired by the director of the Office of Workforce
13 Competitiveness and shall include the Secretary of the Office of Policy

14 and Management, the Commissioners of Economic and Community
15 Development and Higher Education, [and] the Labor Commissioner,
16 the executive directors of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated and
17 the Connecticut Development Authority and four representatives from
18 the technology industry, one of whom shall be appointed by the
19 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed
20 by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
21 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate and one of whom shall
22 be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

23 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Office of Workforce
24 Competitiveness shall, within available appropriations, establish a
25 grant program to provide a flexible source of funding the creation and
26 generation of talent in institutions of higher education and, with
27 appropriate connections to vocational-technical schools and other
28 secondary schools, for student outreach and development. Grants
29 pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded to institutions of higher
30 education and may be used to:

31 (1) Upgrade instructional laboratories to meet specific industry-
32 standard laboratory and instrumentation skill requirements;

33 (2) Develop new curriculum and certificate and degree programs at
34 the level of associate, bachelor, master's and doctorate, tied to industry
35 identified needs;

36 (3) Develop seamlessly articulated career development programs in
37 workforce shortage areas forecasted pursuant to subdivision (9) of
38 subsection (b) of section 4-124w of the general statutes in collaboration
39 with vocational-technical schools and other secondary schools and
40 institutions of higher education; and

41 (4) Support undergraduate and graduate student research projects
42 and experimental learning activities.

43 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall, within available
44 appropriations, establish a grant program to provide funding for the

45 advancement of research capabilities and research opportunities.
46 Grants pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded to institutions of
47 higher education and technology focused organizations and may be
48 used to:

49 (1) Recruit eminent faculty in basic and applied research;

50 (2) Leverage federal funding for research centers; and

51 (3) Provide pilot funding for faculty to develop initial research data
52 for the development of larger grant funding proposals and to nonstate
53 granting entities, such as federal agencies.

54 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall, within available
55 appropriations, establish a grant program to provide funding for the
56 promotion of collaborative research applications between industry and
57 institutions of higher education. Grants pursuant to this subsection
58 shall be awarded to institutions of higher education, technology
59 focused organizations and business entities may be used:

60 (1) To improve technology infrastructure by advancing the
61 development of shared use between institutions of higher education
62 and business entities of laboratories and equipment, including, but not
63 limited to, technology purchase, lease and installation, operating and
64 necessary support personnel and maintenance; and

65 (2) As matching grants for joint projects between an industry, a
66 technology focused organization or a university. The office shall
67 structure the matching grants to provide two rounds of funding
68 annually and shall do outreach to companies. The matching grant part
69 of the program shall include, but not be limited to, (A) one-to-one
70 matching grants not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars, with in-
71 kind match allowed for small and mid-sized companies, (B)
72 involvement of a competitive process with outside reviewers using as
73 key criteria (i) the demonstration of commercial relevance, and (ii) a
74 clear path to the marketplace for any innovations developed in the
75 course of the research, and (C) an aggressive marketing campaign

76 through business organizations to raise industry awareness of
77 resources from universities or technology focused organizations.

78 (d) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall, within available
79 appropriations, establish a grant program to provide funding for the
80 promotion of commercialization of research done by institutions of
81 higher education. Grants pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded
82 to institutions of higher education and business entities and may be
83 used to:

84 (1) Provide funding to verify the technical and commercial
85 feasibility of early stage discoveries by institutions of higher education
86 that are disclosed or patented to accelerate and increase the likelihood
87 that the technology will be successfully commercialized; and

88 (2) Provide matching support for smaller institutions of higher
89 education to allow for contracts with independent technology transfer
90 organizations to provide specific service to support specific needs.

91 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Grants under section 2 of this
92 act shall be awarded based on the following order of priority:

93 (1) Grants that focus on key technology areas to give Connecticut a
94 competitive advantage in the knowledge economy;

95 (2) Grants that create certificate and degree programs to encourage
96 talent generation;

97 (3) Grants that promote multiinstitutional collaboration across
98 public and private institutions of higher education;

99 (4) Grants that involve multiple activities, enhance research
100 capabilities, promote applied research collaborations and advance the
101 commercialization of research of institutions of higher education; and

102 (5) Grants that include matching funds from institutions of higher
103 education, technology focused organizations or business entities.

104 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Workforce
105 Competitiveness shall, within available appropriations and in
106 consultation with the nanotechnology advisory council established
107 under subsection (b) of this section, prepare recommendations to
108 advance this state's position in nanotechnology development,
109 including recommended state investments to increase university
110 research, develop centers of excellence and shared use facilities,
111 promote partnerships and collaborations involving technology-based
112 business and industry with institutions of higher education, leverage
113 current federal resources and advance education and training
114 programs in nanotechnology fields. No later than January 1, 2006, the
115 Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall report its findings, in
116 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
117 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
118 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement.

119 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall establish an
120 Advisory Council on Nanotechnology to guide the work set out under
121 subsection (a) of this section. The advisory council shall be chaired by
122 the executive director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and
123 shall include representatives from state agencies, including the
124 Department of Economic and Community Development, the
125 Connecticut Development Authority and Connecticut Innovations,
126 Incorporated, public and private institutions of higher education and
127 representatives from the technology industry and technology focused
128 organizations selected by the executive director of the Office of
129 Workforce Competitiveness.

130 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
131 Economic and Community Development, the chairperson of
132 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the president of The University
133 of Connecticut and the chairperson of the Connecticut Development
134 Authority, or their respective designees, shall prepare, within available
135 appropriations, and in consultation with the Governor's
136 Competitiveness Council, the Commissioner of Education, the
137 Commissioner of Higher Education, the chancellors of the community-

138 technical college system and the Connecticut State University system,
139 the director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and any other
140 agencies and leading technology focused organizations deemed
141 appropriate by the Commissioner of Economic and Community
142 Development, recommendations for an implementation plan and
143 budget to establish an Innovation Network that will include the
144 following: (1) The creation of endowed chairs and the hiring of leading
145 academic professionals in targeted fields based on core competencies
146 to work at universities, state colleges and community colleges, in
147 collaboration with other technology initiatives; (2) the focused and
148 aggressive solicitation of and leveraged partnership with federal
149 research funds; (3) increased corporate-sponsored research; (4) the
150 establishment of at least one innovation accelerator, linked to
151 universities and involving corporations and start-up enterprises
152 focused on advanced technology and leveraging the efforts underway
153 by the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology in the Hartford
154 area; (5) the strengthening of technology transfer and entrepreneurship
155 activities at universities in the state; (6) incentives and financial
156 support for collaborative research between universities and industry or
157 federally sponsored technology centers; (7) the creation of linkages to
158 angel networks; and (8) the creation of linkages to incubators in
159 Connecticut. Said plan shall also include provisions for the utilization
160 of existing resources, including, but not limited to, Connecticut
161 Innovations, Incorporated, the Connecticut Development Authority,
162 The University of Connecticut and the Office of Workforce
163 Competitiveness.

164 (b) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Economic
165 and Community Development, in consultation with the chairperson of
166 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the president of the University
167 of Connecticut and the chairperson of the Connecticut Development
168 Authority, shall develop an implementation plan for the Innovation
169 Network, within available resources, and submit said plan and budget
170 to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General
171 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to economic

172 development, education and labor, in accordance with the provisions
173 of section 11-4a of the general statutes."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	4-124ff(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section